

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed October 17, 2005, Claim 12 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 for reasons not relating to patentability, and Claims 1, 16 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,537,201 to Kasic, II et al. Claims 4-11, 13-15, 17-21 and 23-27 were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of the claims from which they correspondingly depend. Applicant submits that all pending claims are in condition for allowance.

In particular, and in relation to the implantable hearing aid transducers of Claims 1, 16 and 22, Kasic, II et al. fails to disclose *inter alia*, an implantable hearing aid transducer having a seal disposed over and around one of a driver magnet and driver coil connected to an actuator to form a sealed connection therebetween and thereby protect said one of the driver magnet and driver coil that is connected to the actuator from body fluids. In this regard, Applicant respectfully points out that in Kasic, II et al. the bellows 30 is not disposed over and around either the leaf 12 or coils 14 to form a sealed connection and thereby protect either the leaf 12 or coils 14 from body fluids.

In view of the foregoing deficiency of Kasic, II et al., Applicant submits that independent Claims 1, 16 and 22 are allowable. Applicant further submits that dependent Claims 2-15, 17-21 and 23-27, respectively, are allowable for the same reason as Claims 1, 16 and 22, and further since such claims present further combinative features not disclosed or rendered obvious by the prior art.

Based upon the foregoing, Applicants believe that all pending claims are in condition for allowance and such disposition is respectfully requested. In the event that a telephone conversation would further prosecution and/or expedite allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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